REMARKS

In an Official Action dated April 26, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 and 26-29 as anticipated by or obvious in light of Sousloff 4,600,334. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection in light of the following discussion.

As discussed in the application, Applicant's mounting device 20 includes an inner sleeve 30, an outer sleeve 50 and a locking ring 40. The inner sleeve 30 has an inner bore that is configured to cooperate with the shaft 15. The inner sleeve is radially deformable so that the inner sleeve can contract to frictionally engage the shaft. The outer sleeve 50 overlies the inner sleeve 30, and it is substantially rigid radially. The mounting device is tightened or loosened by turning the locking ring 40.

The outer sleeve has an engagement surface that is configured to cooperate with the inner bore of an elongated element on the shaft, such as paper core 12. In this way, the mounting device is operable to position and support the paper core on the shaft 15 (See Fig. 2). Although the mounting device supports the paper core, it is desirable to mount the paper core without clamping onto the interior of the paper core. Accordingly, as recited in claim 1, the outer sleeve comprises a frustoconical external surface and the outer sleeve is substantially solid to prevent expansion or contraction when the device is tightened or loosened.

In contrast to the device recited in claim 1, Soussloff 4,600,334 is directed to a mounting device for positively clamping both a shaft 10 and a machine element 8 to mount the machine element on the shaft. To mount the machine element 8, the mounting device has an inner sleeve 120 configured to clamp down on a shaft 10 when the device is tightened and a two-piece outer sleeve configured to clamp on the machine element when the device is tightened.

Since the Sousloff 4,600,334 device is designed to operate differently than Applicant's device, Sousloff does not teach or suggest all of the features of the pending claims. For instance, referring to claim 1, a mounting device having an outer sleeve and an inner sleeve is recited. The inner sleeve is configured to expand and contract when the device is loosened. However, the outer sleeve is recited as being substantially solid to prevent expansion and contraction when the device is tightened or loosened.

The Official Action states that the device in Figs 7-9 of Sousloff includes an outer sleeve the characteristics of claim 1, but it does not. The device in Sousloff Figs. 7-9 is a two-part sleeve; the two parts are: 1) an interior portion in the form of sleeve 34 and 2) an exterior bushing 155. The Official Action refers to the interior portion 34 of the outer sleeve as being an outer sleeve having the characteristics of the outer sleeve recited in claim 1. However, element 34 in Sousloff is configured quite differently.

The interior sleeve 34 in Figs 7-9 is the same element as the sleeve

described in connection with the embodiments in Figs. 1-6. (see col. 5 lines 57-60). Sleeve 34 is a wedge element that is adapted to be driven along the tapered surfaces of the inner sleeve and the outer element of the two-piece outer sleeve. Sleeve 34 drives along the tapered surfaces "***to forceably expand***." See col. 2 lines 58-62. To allow sleeve 34 to expand and contract, the sleeve is a plurality of separate segments, as can be seen clearly in Figs. 1, 4 and 7.

Since sleeve 34 is formed of a plurality of segments to allow the sleeve to expand and contract, sleeve 34 does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Specifically, sleeve 34 is not a sleeve that is "substantially solid to prevent expansion or contraction when the device is tightened or loosened" as recited in claim 1. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion to modify Sousloff in such a manner, because doing so would be contrary to the purpose of the Sousloff device. Specifically, Soussloff is directed to positively clamping onto a shaft and a machine element in order to mount the element on the shaft. Modifying Sousloff to incorporate a solid outer sleeve that does not expand or contract would render the Sousloff device unable to operate according to its intended function.

In light of the fact that Sousloff does not teach an outer sleeve that is substantially solid to prevent expansion and contraction, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claim 1, along with dependent claims 2-8.

Independent claim 9 is patentable over Sousloff 4,600,334 for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1. For instance, claim 9 recites a mounting device having inner and outer sleeves, wherein the inner sleeve is radially deformable so that it can contract. The outer sleeve has a generally frustoconical external engagement surface, and the outer sleeve is configured to "impede expansion of the engagement surface when the device is tightened by turning the locking ring in a first direction." As discussed above, the outer sleeve 34 in Sousloff is a segmented wedge shaped sleeve that is configured to expand and contract to wedge apart the outer bushing 155. Therefore, Sousloff does not teach or suggest the features of claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claim 9 and dependent claims 10-14.

Independent claim 26 is patentable over Sousloff 4,600,334 for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claims 1 and 9. For instance, claim 26 recites a mounting device having inner and outer sleeves wherein the inner sleeve is radially deformable so that it can contract. The outer sleeve in claim 26 recites a frustoconical engagement surface, and the outer sleeve is substantially rigid to impede expansion of the outer sleeve when the device is tightened. As discussed above, Soussloff does not teach or suggest such features. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claim 26 and dependent claims 27-29.

In addition to the differences discussed above, claims 3, 14 and 29 are

further distinct from Sousloff 4,600,334. With respect to these claims, the Examiner simply states that it would be obvious to make the mounting device out of plastic to provide a rust proof material. This assumes there had been a problem with rust and the device is made from plastic to overcome the rust issue. Quite frankly, the Examiner has simply made up a problem and a proposed solution. There is no evidence to show that rust is an issue with such mounting devices, and Applicant's undersigned attorney is not aware of any reference teaching the use of plastic for such a mounting device. Further, the type of mounting device in Sousloff has been for decades. If it is a simple matter of design choice and is obvious, certainly the Examiner would be able to identify a reference supporting such use from the art that has developed over the decades since Sousloff issued.

Finally, Applicant's undersigned attorney notes that claim 11 has been amended to affect an editorial revision, and not for any reason relating to patentability. The claim was clear and definite before the amendment. The amendment is being made simply to provide more explicit correlation between the recitations of the tapered walls in the claim. Additionally, claim 29 has been amended to change the dependency of claim 29 from claim 9 to claim 26.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant believes that this application is in form for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney if the Examiner believes that issues remain regarding the allowability of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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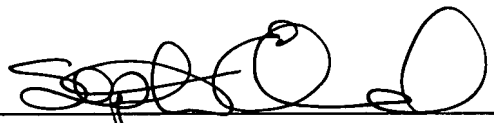
By 
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